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Rodney Lawrence Hurst, Sr. Papers

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8-17-1984

## American Commemoratives Stamp Series: Roberto Clemente

United States Postal Service. Stamp Division

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## AMERICAN COMMEMORATIVES



# ROBERTO CLEMENTE

As a baseball player, Roberto Clemente was among the greats. But he was also a humanitarian, who spent his free time helping the poor and underprivileged in his native Puerto Rico and throughout the Americas.

It was one such act of service that caused Clemente's untimely death. On his way to Nicaragua to assist in the distribution of supplies to earthquake victims, Clemente's plane crashed on December 31, 1972.

Born on August 18, 1934, in Carolina, Puerto Rico, Clemente broke into the major leagues in 1955 with the Pittsburgh Pirates. He remained with the Pirates throughout his 18-year baseball career.

Clemente had that rare mix of enthusiasm, team spirit and talent that earned him respect and admiration from teammates, management and fans.

Over the course of 18 seasons, Clemente played in 12 All-Star games, captured 11 Golden Glove awards as a right-fielder, held a .317 lifetime batting average, and was a member of the exclusive 3,000-hit club (Clemente had exactly 3,000 hits.)

Clemente also won the National League batting championship five times, and was named the league's most valuable player in 1966.

Always a team player, Clemente was at the top of his form both times the Pirates made it to the World Series, in 1960 and 1971. Clemente hit safely in all seven games in both series, and helped lead the Pirates to victory on both occasions. He was named most valuable player in the 1971 contest.

For all his greatness as an athlete, Clemente believed that good works were a true measure of a man. As he put it, "Accomplishment is something you cannot buy. If you have a chance to do something for somebody and you do not make the most of it, you are wasting your time on this earth." Roberto Clemente was elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1973.

The stamp commemorating Roberto Clemente was issued on August 17, 1984, in Carolina, Puerto Rico. It was designed by Juan Lopez-Bonilla, a native of Puerto Rico who now resides in Louisville, Kentucky.

The engraving which appears above is the coat of arms of Puerto Rico.





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*Issue Date:* August 17, 1984

*First Day City:* Carolina, Puerto Rico

*Designer:* Juan Lopez-Bonilla  
Louisville, Kentucky

*Art Director and Typographer:*  
Bradbury Thompson

*Modeler:* Clarence Holbert

*Process:* Gravure

*Colors:* Grey, tan, brown, red, blue  
and black

*Image Area:* .84 x 1.44 inches or  
21.33 x 36.57 millimeters

*Plate Numbers:* One group

*Stamps per Pane:* 50

*Selva:* ©U.S. Postal Service 1983  
Use Correct ZIP Code®  
Mr. ZIP® (running position)

## Roberto Clemente Commemorative Stamp

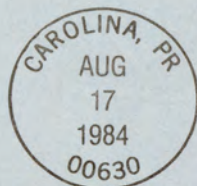
A 20-cent commemorative stamp recognizing the 50th anniversary year of the birth of baseball superstar Roberto Clemente was issued August 17 in Carolina, Puerto Rico, his birthplace. The first day ceremony was held at the Roberto Clemente Sport City, a project on which he worked that includes facilities for a wide variety of sports.

An outstanding athlete and humanitarian, Roberto Clemente was born on August 18, 1934. His baseball career began in 1955, when he was drafted by the Pittsburgh Pirates. "Number 21" was a steady presence in the Pirates' outfield until his death in a plane crash on New Year's Eve, 1972, when he was on his way to Nicaragua to assist in the distribution of supplies to earthquake victims.

Clemente excelled at the plate, on the base paths and especially on defense. He played in 12 All-Star games, captured 11 Golden Glove awards as a rightfielder, led the National League in batting four times and had a lifetime batting average of .317. In 1966, he was named the League's most valuable player.

Clemente led the Pirates to world titles in 1960 and 1971, when he was voted the most valuable player in the World Series. A double on September 30, 1972, his last game, earned him his 3,000th hit, which entitled him to join the ranks of an elite group of athletes with 3,000 or more hits during their careers. He was elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1973.

The vertically oriented stamp in the Sports Series features a head and neck profile of Clemente with the flag of his native Puerto Rico in the background.



FIRST DAY OF ISSUE

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